GLEN - HOW ABOUT A FEW HUNDRED WORD CONTRIB. ABOUT YOUR DAYS WITH "TCR" & FANDOM FOR THE 100th EDITION?

89
SEPT

ETCETERA & THE COMIC READER

Kirby Kapers

This is the toughest news gathering and writing job I've ever handled. For the past few weeks, a million rumors, facts, and lies have been flying through fandom and prodom about Jack Kirby moving to Marvel.

As it stands today (Sept. 1) as I go to the printer, Jack is still working for National and will be until his contract expires in two years. However, had I written this story a week ago it might have said that Jack was at Marvel. The true story behind all this is: a) long; b) impossible to get completely and factually, and c) mostly none of anyone's business.

About all that can be said for the future is that it would not be a great shock no matter who Jack is working for. At this time, it appears to be National.

The only comments for print were: Roy Thomas: "We'd like to see Jack back here, of course, and he would probably do mostly pencilling." Carmine Infantino: "No comment." and "In the hypothetical instance that he did leave, we would probably keep publishing the titles that he is now doing."

As more details (and any more changes) become available, they'll be printed. However, the whole incident is such a mess that I seriously doubt whether any of real facts will be known in this century.

Book & Magazine News starts this issue! "So What Else Is News"..Pg 15

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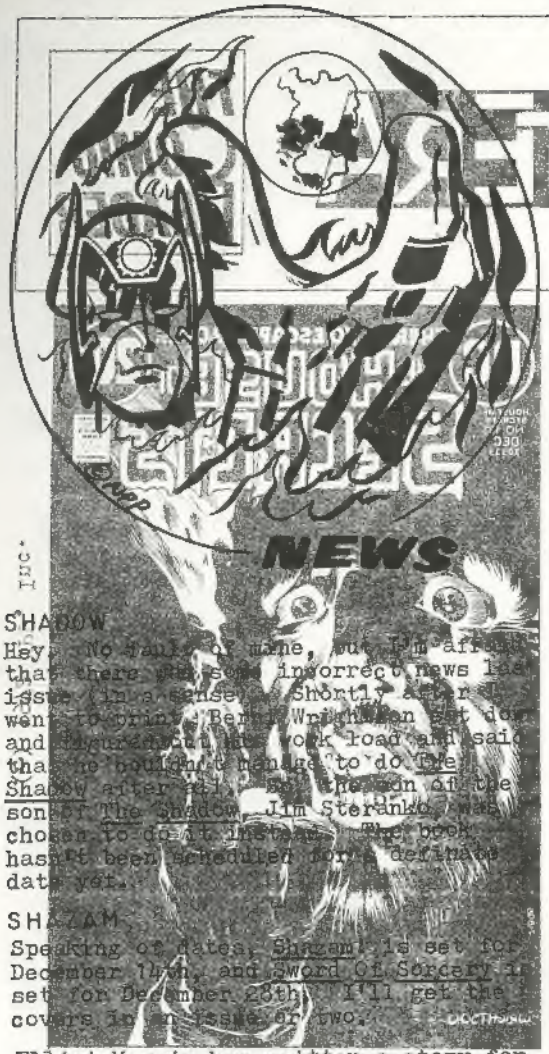

Contents report on Secret Origins 1. The 1 page Superman origin from Action 1 (you've only see the 2 pg version from Superman 1); the 2 page Batman origin from Detective Comics, the modern Flash origin from Showcase 4 by Infantino & Kubert (it was last reprinted in Secret Origins Annual 1, twelve years ago); and the first fight between Hawkman and the Ghost from the golden age (art by Kubert).

More new/old stuff: Rudolph The Red Nosed Raindeer (a DC book during the 50s and 60s) is coming back in an oversized dollar magazine, out on October 24th. It'll be 10" x 15.25" and will be in full color. Contents include reprints of three Rudolph stories, plus game & puzzle pages.

ARCHIE GOODWIN DEPT

Notes on Archie Goodwin and his wan books: He's got new folks working on Blackhawk features, George Evans (remember him?) on art, a new writer by the name of John Warner and another new one named Gerry Boudreau (sorry if there are mispelling guys, but no printed credits yet). Grunzman remains on Tank, and Sparling on Unknown Soldier (Archie is writing both).

For those interested, Archie Goodwin's code letter is "GW". I'm sure you all watch those little code numbers on the comics.

SHADOW

Hey. No faults of mine, but I'm afraid that there was some inworrect news last issue (in a sense). Shortly after I went to print, Denny Wrightson got down and figured out his work load and said that he would not manage to do the Shadow after all, so the man of the son of The Shadow, Jim Steranko, was chosen to do it instead. The book hasn't been scheduled for definate date yet.

SHAZAM

Speaking of dates, Shazam! is set for December 14th, and Sword Of Sorcery is set for December 28th. I'll get the covers in an issue or two.

Elliot Maggin has written a story for Shazam 2. Denny O'Neil already has one slated for that issue.

REPRINT DEPT

New title time: Secret Origins will be out in December. It will be a bi-monthly reprint title, edited by Nelson Bridwell, featuring origins of super-heroes and super-villains. The old logo (from the two Secret Origins giants in 1961 & 1964) will be used.

The line-up for Wanted 7: The 2nd Hawkman-Ghost fight from the forties (by Kubert), Hourman Vs. Dr. Glisten (a villain with an aura), Johnny Quick vs. Dr. Clever by Mort Meskin.

NOTES

The new format Adventure Comics has a series or two in the works for it. One is The Vigilante. The first Vig story is by Cary Bates, Mike Sekowsky and Dick Giordano. There also may be more pirate stories, like the one in #5 (see Coming Comics).

The Demon has a two parter coming up in numbers 4 and 5, involving a witch and Merlin.

An issue of Weird War Tales will be devoted to 3 Ambrose Bierce adaptations, by Nelson Bridwell & Hilly Draut. The stories are: "Horsemen In The Sky", "Incurance On Owl Creek Bridge" and "A Man With Two Lives". It isn't set for a specific issue yet.

A future Weird Western Tales will be all-Jonah Hex to make up for his absence from No. 15.

Jimmy Olsen is going to get a job as an "Action Reporter" in No. 155. For those you who aren't New Yorkers, the Action Reporter acts on phoned in complaints about just about anything. We have one on Channel 5 TV.

Deborah Anderson has left her job as Bob Kanigher's assistant because of outside committments. Jeff Rovin will be covering there.

All the Laurel & Hardy material is dead for good of legal hassles.

Weird Worlds is in danger, sales figure wise. Do you want it to continue? Write letters and buy copies. The dangerous issue is number four.

There's Toth in the air. New stuff slated for Our Army At War 253 and Adventure 425.

Spawn Of Frankenstein (the strip in Phantom Stranger) will begin in No. 23 and will be done by Wolfman & Kaluta.

Teen Titans has been revived. It'll miss a few months (maybe even a year at the outside -- it takes a while to get a comic book in operation) but it will be back.

Ernie Chua has done the last segment of the Lilith origin story for Teen Titans 43.

CHARLTON & GOLD KEY

On the prospects for full coverage of Charlton and Gold Key coverage. The matter is currently under discussion by the senior executives at each company, and if they raise no objections, next issue will probably feature a full listing of both companies new releases and major news items. I have done what I can, now the matter is in the hands of fate.

In the meantime, Charlton's Nick Cuti reports no major news in the works. "Just more of the same stuff."

LATE NEWS NOTES: The Wonder Woman hardcover will be published by Holt, Reinhart & Winston in conjunction with Warner Communications (NPP's parent company). Full details next ish (the contracts have to be signed next week) but the book will have four parts: The Origin, Sisterhood, Politics, and Romance. Text by Dr Phyllis Chesler, introduction by Gloria Steinem.

I'm getting old. All of you must have noticed that hint in "Stan's Soapbox" this month about an origin book. Somehow or other, I forgot to mention that last month. Sorry, folks. Anyway, it is being targeted for Christmas (no guarantees, though) and will contain 100 or more pages of reprints on the order of those in Marvel Tales Annual 1 (Amazing Fantasy 15, et al). The book will probably be in color, but the actual physical format is still under discussion. It might, for instance, even end up as a bookstore item. I'll let you know.

Here's a rundown on some of the artists on the fill-in issues I mentioned a while back.

Syd Shores is slated to do Daredevil, Dick Ayers is on The Gunhawks, Ross Andru and Joe Sinnott on The Fantastic Four, Sal Amendola on Thor, and Dan Adkins on Sub-Mariner. Jim Starlin is doing two or three issues of Iron Man to allow George Tuska to work on Hero For Hire. Alan Weiss may do the Capt. America issue. John Buscema will do the Conan The Barbarian fill-in issue.

Thongor will be done as straight (almost) adaptations from Lin Carter's stories. The first story is taken from "Theives Of Zangabar" (from one of Lancer's Swordsmen anthologies). Script by George Alec Effinger (Roy Thomas did a few pages on the first), layouts and inks by Dan Adkins, pencils by one of Adkins' assistants -- Val Mayerick.

MCG is starting 6 new reprint books. The only hero book is SHIELD, which will feature two 12 pg stories edited to 21 pgs. Another new one is Tex Dawson, Gunslinger (né The Western Kid). Also there's Crypt Of Shadows and a war book-War Is Hell, with non-series stories. WIH may go new if it sells.

Marvel is dropping the frame that they have been using on their covers.

On War Of The Worlds. Neal Adams has done a number of pages for the first book, and it will definately begin with his material. However, depending on when the job is done, the series may start in Amazing Adventures 17 or 18. A fill-in issue of something would be used for 17.

Speaking of Val Mayerick, he's getting very busy for a new bullpener. He's doing some work on Man Thing, and will do the work on War Of The Worlds that Gil Kane was originally slotted for.

Barry Smith has been debating dropping Conan for a while, and at this point it looks as though the odds are about even that his work in No. 23 will be his last. If so, John Buscema will be the new penciller. Buscema would then just do layouts each month on Fantastic Four and Joe Sinnott would have to finish it up. The results are almost exactly the same (don't believe me? check out FF 128 -- it was done that way and nobody noticed!). Thor would be unaffected.

Marie Severin will continue doing The Cat, but only until a replacement is found. Fandom's own Paty may get a shot at it, if her samples are good enough.

More thoughts on the fill-in issues. Spider-Man won't have a specific fill-in job, but "Lo,This Monster" from Spidey Spectacular 1 will be broken into three parts (the story was 53 pages long) and an equal amount of new material will be added to it (including whole plot threads). There's no Hulk filler.

Roy Thomas says the really good sellers among the new Marvel titles are: Dracula, Werewolf, and Marvel Team-Up. Team Up will probably be made monthly as soon as Kane gets a little ahead.

Once the adaptations are over in Monster Of Frankenstein, the strip will be set in the early 1900s so he won't meet up with other Marvel heroes.

John Jakes wrote a short Brak The Barbarian story for Chamber Of Chills 2 (see Coming Comics).

New on Capt. Marvel: Mike Friedrich & Jim Starlin.

Marvel is starting a new fan club in the near future, but Stan & Roy will retain direct control this time.

FOR NEW READERS: COMING COMICS is a directory of the upcoming month's releases from major comic art publishers. The listings follow this format: TITLE (Number, cover date). Description of contents. (On sale date)

OUR ARMY AT WAR (252, December). Part two of the three-part Rock-Iron Major battle. This issue the German High Command sends a bloodthirsty killer to aid the Major. Kanigher & Heath, of course. (10/3)

GHOSTS (10, December). "The Hell Beast Of Berkeley Square," "Ghost Of Windsgate Gallows," "A Specter Stalks Saigon" (from a story carried by The Times and many other papers), "Death Came At Dawn" (Glanzman), and "Experiment Beyond The Grave" (Mortimer). (10/3)

ERB'S WEIRD WORLDS (3, January). Cover shown last issue. David Innes in "The Temple Of The Damned" by Wein and Weiss. John Carter ventures "Into The Valley Of Death" (by Wolfman and Anderson). (10/3)

FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN (20, January). The Star Rovers in "When Did Earth Vanish?" from Mystery In Space No. 86. Plus "Fishermen From The Sea" and "Interplanetary Restaurant". (10/5)

WEIRD WESTERN TALES (15, January). Cover in this issue. El Diablo in "Never Kill A Demon" (by Cary Bates & Neal Adams). Plus two non-series stories: "Hang Him High" by Jack Oleck and Gil Kane, and "The Ballad Of Doc Satan" by Marv Wolfman and Bill Draut. (10/5)

YOUNG ROMANCE (189, December). (10/5)

£ £ £

WITCHING HOUR (26, December). "The End Of An Executioner" (Grandinetti),

"How To Kill A Witch" and "World Of Memories". (10/10)

G.I. COMBAT (157, January). Last Joe Kubert edited issue. Jeb is shot and cured by the miracle waters of "The Fountain" in this issue's Haunted Tank story. (10/10)

JUSTICE LEAGUE (103, December). The stage is Rutland, Vermont as the JLA encounters (and inducts?) The Phantom Stranger in "A Stranger Walks Among Us" by Len Wein, Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. (10/10)

SUPERMAN (259, December). The story of Billy Anders (begun in "The Kid Who Stole SM's Powers", SM 254) is wound up with "The Kid Who Knocked Out Superman" by Denny O'Neil, Curt Swan & Murphy Anderson. (10/12)

THE SWAMP THING (2, January). The saga continues with "The Man Who Wanted Forever". Script by Len Wein, art by Berni Wrightson. (10/12)

SINISTER HOUSE (8, December). "The Young Man Who Cried", "Paying With Fire", and "Moonlight Bay". (10/12)

WANTED (4, December). The original Green Lantern in "Fighters Never Quit", the origin story of Solomon Grundy (art by Paul Reinman). Plus Kid Eternity Vs Masterman, a villain with the kid's own powers. (10/12).

£ £ £

THE FLASH (219, January). "Million Dollar Deathtrap" brings back the Top and the Mirror Master. Script by Cary Bates, art by Irv Novick & Joe Giella. The final Green Arrow & Green Lantern story is "The Fate Of An Archer" by Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams & Dick Giordano. (10/17)

WEIRD WAR TALES (9, December). "The Promise", "Blood Brothers", and "The Last Battle." (10/17)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (215, January). Superman, Batman and Sons is the new rotating lead in WFC. With this ish Murray Boltinoff takes over and he will use these non-Imaginary characters every few issues. This ish -- "The Saga Of The Super-Sons" by Bob Haney, Dick Dillin & Henry Scarpelli. (10/17)

LOIS LANE (128, December). Bob Kanigher takes over with -- "Death Waits To Kiss The Bride", a story about the marriage of Lois and Superman. Kanigher script, art by Rosenberger and Colletta. Plus Rose & Thorn in "Edge Of Madness" by Heck & Scarpelli. (10/19)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (166, Jan.). I think this issue contains Norm Maurer's Unknown Soldier story -- "True Glory." This is the last Kubert edited issue. (10/19)

KAMANDI-THE LAST BOY ON EARTH (2, January). "The Year Of The Rat" takes Kamandi to the New York City Subway System (a wreck in its own time, much less A.D.). By Kirby! (10/19)

BATMAN (246, December). "How Many Ways Can A Robin Die?" is this issue's booklengther. Cockrum & Adams cover. Script by Frank Robbins. Art by Irv Novick (Chapt. 1 & 2), Dick Dillin (Chapt. 3 done when Novick fell ill), and inks by Dick Giordano. (10/19)

£ £ £

SUPERBOY (192, December). "The Deadly Dawn" by Bates, Brown & Anderson plus "Superbaby's New Family" by Dorfman, Brown & Anderson. (10/24)

GIRLS' LOVE STORIES (175, January). (10/24)

THE DEMON (4, December). Introducing a double identity monster, a witch named Ugly Meg, and a whole mess of other plots. By Kirby. (10/24)

DETECTIVE COMICS (430, December). Jim Aparo cover. The Batman must discover his own secret identity in "The Clue Of The False Faces" (Script by Robbins, art by Brown & Cardy). The Elongated Man investigates "The Haunted Studio Mystery" in a story by Nelson Bridwell and Dick Giordano. (10/26)

ACTION COMICS (419, December). Action goes over to Julie Schwartz. Cover in this issue by Adams, Anderson, and Adler (photo). Superman becomes "The Most Dangerous Man On Earth" in a story by Cary Bates, Swan & Anderson. Plus, the first story of The Human Target -- "The Assassin Express Contract" by Len Wein, Carmine Infantino, and Dick Giordano. (10/26)

ADVENTURE COMICS (425, January). Now bi-monthly and featuring new, mostly non-series, adventure stories. "World Of Jealous Gods" by Alex Toth leads off, folowed by "Prior Warning" (2 pgs), "Sword Of The Dead" (a Gil Kane sword & sorcery story left over from the Giordano days), and"Captain Fear" a pirate story by Bob Kanigher and Alex Nino. Cover in this issue. (10/26)

TARZAN OF THE APES (215, December). A Hal Foster story, somewhat rewritten by Kubert features Tarzan captive in "The Mine." Plus another installment of Beyond The Farthest Star. (10/26)

£ £ £

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (209, December). "For Money...For Love", "Maniacs", and "Tomorrow I Hate". (10/31)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (103, December). "The Village On The Edge Of Forver", "No Bed Of Roses", and "Waiting...Waiting... Waiting..." (10/31)

THE UNEXPECTED (142, December). "Let The Dead Sleep" (Elias), "Now I Lay Me Down To Die", "Kill Me If You Dare". (10/31)

IRON MAN (54, January). Iron Man vs Sub-Mariner while Madame MacEvil waits in the wings (a villainess who can control Iron Man's armor). Script by Mike Friedrich, art by George Tuska & Vince Colletta. (10/3)

INCREDIBLE HULK (159, January). The Hulk returns to Earth to face the Abomination. Art by Trimpe & Trapani. (10/3)

DAREDEVIL (95, January). The Man-Bull returns in the beginning of a two-part story. Script by Gerry Conway, art by Colan & Palmer. (10/3)

KID COLT OUTLAW (166, January). (10/3)

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (22, January). Rawhide Kid, Kid Colt, Two Gun Kid. (10/3)

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (13, January). Black Rider, Apache Kid, Matt Slade, Gunfighter. (10/3)

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES (34, January). The Hulk in "The Titan & The Torment" with Hercules (Lee & Everrett). Subby in "When Rises The Behemoth" (Lee & Colan). Both stories from Astonish 79. (10/3)

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (19, January). (10/3)

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CRYPT OF SHADOWS (1, January). A new bi-monthly mystery reprint title, this issue including a Wolverton story. (10/10)

THOR (207, January). The wrap up of the Rutland-Loki-Absorbing Man story. By Gerry Conway, John Buscema and Vince Colletta. (10/10)

WAR IS HELL (1, January). A new bi-monthly reprint title. This issue has a Trimpe cover, and stories by Al Williamson, Woodbridge, Ayers, and Powell. (10/10)

CHAMBER OF CHILLS (2, January). A Vampire-type appears in REH's "Monster From The Mound" by Fox & Brunner. Adkins & Russell contribute a space vampire story. Plus Brak The Barbarian by John Jakes, Adkins & Mayerick. (10/10)

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS (40,January). The FF face Klaw, and learn the origin of the Black Panther. Lee & Kirby from FF 53. (10/0)

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION (8, January). Sgt. Fury in "On To Okinowa", the story that introduced Capt. Savage. From No. 10, by Lee & Ayers. (10/10)

TWO GUN KID (108, January). (10/10)

TEX DAWSON, GUNSLINGER (1, January). Look what Western Kid came back as! The reprint series continues. (10/10)

SUB-MARINER (57, January). "In The Wake Of The War God" re-introduces Venus, the Atlas heroine, and her foe Ares. An Everrett issue. (10/10)

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (116, January). This issue begins the three-part adaptation of the story from Spider-Man Spectacular 1. (10/10)

AVENGERS (107, January). The wind-up of the Grim Reaper-Space Phantom battle, plus the continuation of the Tuska Cap story. Englehart, Buckler, Tuska & Cockrum. (10/10)

CAPT. AMERICA (157, January). Introducing a new foe -- The Viper. Steve Englehart, SalBuscema & Frank McLaughlin. (10/10)

£ £ £

RAWHIDE KID (107, January). A new lead -- "The Ape Strikes" plus a six page reprint. (10/17)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (22, January). The cover illustrates a story entitled "Shadow Of The Black Vulture", which will appear next issue (guess which Post Office lost about 10 pages). In the meantime, there's a reprint of Conan 1 and a pin-up page. (10/17)

HERO FOR HIRE (5, January). Luke Cage learns "Don't Mess With Black Mariah", a rather deadly heavy black lady. Script by Steve Englehart, art by George Tuska & Billy Graham. (10/17)

AMAZING ADVENTURES (16, January). The Beast winds up his solo adventures with a battle against the Juggernaut in Rutland. Englehart & Sutton.(10/17)

MY LOVE (21, January). (10/17)

RED WOLF (5, January). Red Wolf meets a guy named Fast John Silver this ish. Script by Fox, pencils by Shores, inks by Chic Stone. (10/17)

MARVEL FEATURE (7, January). This is the fill-in issue of Ant-Man, as he battles an android named the Para-Man. Script by Mike Friedrich, art by Adkins & Russell. (10/17)

RINGO KID (18, January). (10/17)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (6, January). Spider-Man & The Thing versus the Deadly Duo (the Puppet Master and the Mad Thinker). By Conway, Kane & Esposisto. (10/17)

NIGHT NURSE (2, January). A hit and run driver, a drunken MD, and more in "Moment Of Truth". J. Thomas & Win Mortimer. (10/17)

SPOOF (3, January). This issue we have "Frogs", "The Partridge Family", and "What If Celebrities Ran For President" (Marv Wolfman). (10/17)

£ £ £

FANTASTIC FOUR (130, January). The end of the Frightful Four and the beginning of a lot of new plot threads. Roy Thomas, John Buscema, & Joe Sinnott. (10/24)

SGT. FURY (106, January). A new story this ish, sorry, no more info. (10/24)

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (21, January). The wind-up of The Warrior of Mars or Gullivar Jones series. Script by G.A. Effinger, art by Gray Morrow. (10/24)

THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN (1, Jan.). Gary Friedrich & Mike Ploog begin a three part adaptation of Mary Shelly's novel. (10/24)

TOMB OF DRACULA (6, January). Adams cover. "The Monster Of The Moors" by Fox, Colan & Palmer. (10/24).

M. PREMIERE (6,Jan). Dr Strange in "The Shambler From The Sea" by Gardner Fox, Frank Brunner, and Sal Buscema (2 pgs inked by Reese). (10/24)

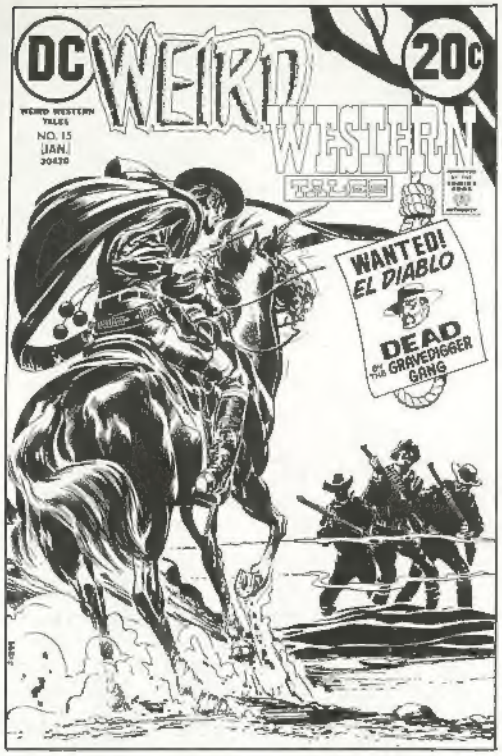
KULL THE CONQUEROR (6, January). A new story about a city under the City Of Wonders. The title is "A Worm Under The City". Conway & the Severins. (10/24)

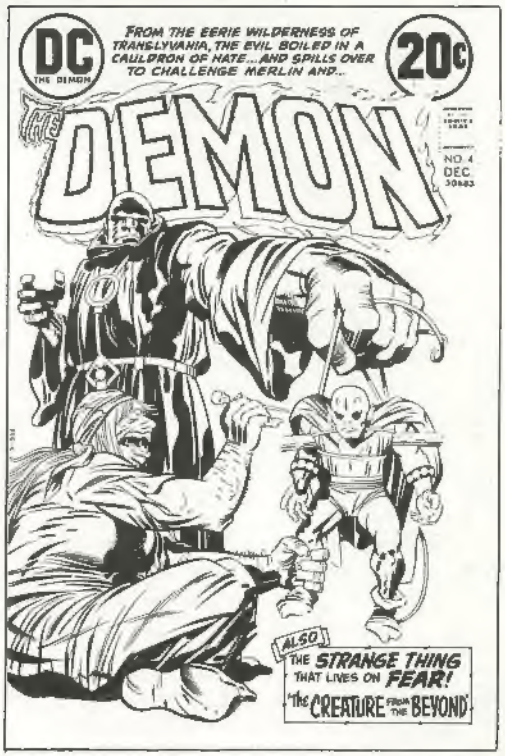
LI'L PALS (3, January). Funny animals. (10/24)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (3, January). A mad monk and a haunted church. Gary Friedrich and Mike Ploog. (10/24)

CAPT. MARVEL (24, January). Marv Wolfman & Wayne Boring bid adieu to CM with "The Day Of The Android Man", a story featuring a "Dr. Mynde". (10/24)

THE CAT (2, January). The Cat battles DD's old foe -- The Owl. Script by Linda Fite, art by Marie Severin & Jim Mooney. (10/24)

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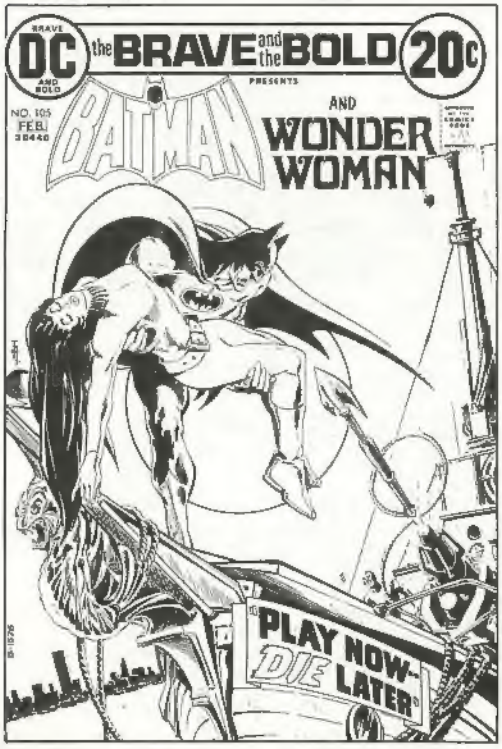

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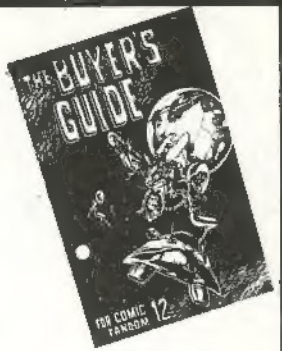

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Dig it! I think THE MONSTER TIMES is what fans have been looking for in a pro-level zine! Enclosed is . . .

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In Etcetera & The Comic Reader 86, we introduced a new feature which told you how this magazine was born. We now continue with our policy of telling all by presenting Chapter 2 of...

TRUE CONFESSIONS

PAUL KUPPERBERG

Ever since I went to work as an usher at the good old Granada theatre, I have met weirdos who stand around talking to themselves (one went up to the men's room and cut his wrists when the conversation got boring), gays who have propositioned me, old ladies who have made me sterile with their umbrellas and pushers who've offered me everything from pot to H. However, all of these folk seem normal compared to:

THE LEDGENDARY BROOKLYN BARBARIANS!
or
"What To Do Till The Keeper Comes!"

To begin with, there is the head BB and slave keeper, Paul Levitz. Levitz, the only human (?) with paper-trained pimples, keeps the slaves in check with large quantities of Little Venice's putrid pizza and foul cherry soda.

Next in the chain of command comes ME! Remaining the truly modest God that the GREAT I am, I can only say that I am probably the universe's greatest expert on rank-outs based on race, religion, color and creed (according to the Equal Opportunity Insult Act of 1873).

What can be said about Liam O'Connor that is not detrimental to one's health? Anyway, this nice, kind, generous person ("Now will you get your hand off my throat, master?") splits his time between writing fanzine reviews and impersonating a policeman.

Steve Gilary, fandom's answer to the Polish joke, was thrown out of Poland seven years ago for stupidity (Jesus! How low can even a Polock sink!). He has been interested in comics for five years now. The first comic he ever bought was the August 67 Betty & Veronica...as a matter of fact he's almost finished reading it now! After he finishes each page, he eats it ("You got any mustard?").

Anybody who has any idea what to say to 12 ft, 8 inch hockeypuck please write in and tell me, 'cause I've been having trouble talking to Jim Glenn lately. I'm not saying he's tall, we just see things eye to navel.

If you thought The Shadow was mysterious, you ain't never met our Mr. X. Mr. X is wanted in 17 states for illeagal possession of a brain (which is why he never uses his real name).

One of the younger members of group, Bob Keenan (our troll-in-training) is an average run of the mill weirdo; perfectly suited for the barbarians. But we wish we could break his habit of gnawing through his chains!

Now comes Boston Brand. Ooops! I mean Eddie Manley. Ed joined our little sewing circle a year ago, but we didn't realize he was here until 2 weeks ago when he asked for more staples.

Ah, our token human--Jerry Berger. He's the only one of us who actively pursues those strange things known as girls. We keep asking him to tell us what they're for...

When I first wrote this, I left out Bob McWalters. Then I remembered him. Then I remembered the old adage: "If you can't say anything nice about a person, don't say anything." Well...

Last, but not least, comes Chee-Chee, by far the smartest, cutest, and most human of the whole bunch (don't bananas come in bunches too?). She's the one who explains to neighbors just what the hell goes on here. Pretty good acheivement for a five year old, fourteen pound schnauzer, ain't it?

Now, you may ask, what the heel the force is that brings this prize-winning bunch of dummies several times a month? First of all, it could only happen in that world renowned dumping ground -- East Flatbush (neither Flatbush nor Canarsie would claim us so we're East Flatbush. For further info call TWA or your local travel agency). The reason: any other method of coallating etc/tcr would cost cheap-o Levitz $$$$$$!!! That's why when you get etc/tcr each month you find page 7 directly preceeds page 84 (even though it's only an 18 page magazine).

....And that's the way it is, August 11, 2001.

NEXT EPISODE: "Turning Points" including the untold tale of why PK left etc. and is a better Argentine Monk for it! After that, I'm running out of venom, so it's up to you to tell me what you want to know about etc/tcr, Levitz, or myself. Address all complaints, comments and explosive devices to me at the regular etc/tcr address.

WANTED for my personal collection: Binky 72, 74. Brave & Bold 32. Debbi's Dates 6,7,9,12. House Of Secrets 51. Outlaw Kid 6. Scooter 3,5,10. Help!

the Wandering Fan

BY TONY ISABELLA
& DWIGHT R. DECKER

When two famous artists team up, the result is usually an instant classic, theoretically combining the best talents residing in each artistic personality. Noteworthy collaborations in the past have included Kirby and Sinnott on The Fantastic Four, Infantino and Anderson on Adam Strange, and Williamson and Frazetta in the halcyon days of EC. Fans still go into dreamy raptures contemplating the artistic triumphs of these great comic artists working in tandem.

But what happens when two writers get together? What fans pay attention to writers when they can drool over artists. Fandom will doubtless pay scant attention to a lonely little column that we call...

THE REVENGE OF BUSBY BERKELEY

Why have Dwight Decker and Tony Isabella combined forces on this and other projects? The answer goes back some. When we got into fandom some five years ago, it was a pretty naive society. Or so it seemed to us. Every professional comics writer or artist was a prince of a fellow. All the fans were guys you could trust with your life. Nobody made any profit off fandom, except for a guy named Rogofsky (who wasn't really one of us). Why even those dealers were merely dealing to support their own collections! Talk about your babes in the woods!

Times have changed. We've learned that there are such things as dishonest fans or "bad" pros, sometimes the hard way. Some fan editors do try to make huge profits off their zines. Some succeed. Fans do shell out huge sums of money for quicky sketches, swiped poses, and drawings by a circus of almost-pros and semi-pros and retired pros, etc.

Take the "artzines." Please. Your typical artzine probably runs you anywhere from a dollar up, seemingly into infinity. In return for your money, you receive a gorgeous magazine, a masterpiece of the printer's trade, replete with a perfectly reproduced full-color oil painting for a wrap-around cover on heavy stock, which, in turn, are printed via the most expensive metal plate process available on high quality pebbled stock paper. You get what you pay for, as far as reproduction methods are concerned.

What bothers us about the artzines is not necessarily the prices per se, printing bills can run high. But when you shell out $$$ for a fanzine, you certainly want more in return than nice paper. You want quality artwork and reading matter. Unfortunately, paying $$$ for a fanzine is no guarantee of getting either. The fan work published in such zines show all the failings that we can expect from amateur artwork. The professional work, even that bought and paid for by the editor (and ultimately the buyer) is often hacked out, offering no real contribution to the fanzine and sometimes even failing to measure up to prevailing pro standards. What, we wonder, is the point in paying dollars for drawings by various pro and semi-pro artists when beautifully-drawn comics with whole stories by these artists are selling on the stands all in color for twenty cents?

Sadly, the level of writing in the artzines is also pretty low. The most prevalent kind of story is the standard shock ending story with plenty of blood and gore. A good example would be any of the unpublished Web of Horror stories. If all the unpublished WoH stories were laid end to end, the street cleaners of the world would be kept busy for a month. They are bad stories. As bad as those published by Bill Parante when he was editing the Warren horror magazines. Yet artzine editors continue to publish them as if they were Odin's gift to fandom.

Which brings another point to mind. We feel there is a bit too much of the pro worshipping syndrome in fandom. We all have our heroes in comics, craftsmen whose work we respect. Ours would include Jack Kirby, Stan Lee, and Roy Thomas. Yet too many fans jump on the bandwagons of relative newcomers who haven't learned their craft. Some of these newcomers stop learning and their work soon ceases to impress anybody. We think it's time fandom became less of a religion. Pros and fans are all people, all basically equal. Specimens of each breed can be found wanting. We would like to see the god/worshipper standard fall by the wayside, to be replaced by meaningful dialogue about the entertainment media we are all interested in and involved in.

And then there's the moneychangers in the temple. We have nothing against the fans who make a profit from fandom, as

long as their products are worth their price. True, there is a grand old tradition inherited from s-f fandom which encourages fans to publish their zines at a loss or, at the most, on a break-even basis, while other fans contribute artwork and articles for no more remuneration than the thrill of seeing their names in print. The publisher of the little ditto zine that's hard put to break a circulation of 100 can hardly be expected to MAKE BIG MONEY. It's his hobby. When it comes to the big projects, however, costing $$$$$$, the situation is much different. If the publisher is willing to risk so much money and the herculian efforts required for such a project, then he is certainly entitled to his profit. All we ask is that the product be worth the price asked.

Likewise, we feel that we are entitled to a piece of the action. There are several faneds making money from publishing. We can think of dozens of faneds who have made $$$$$$ for drawings by professionals and amateurs alike. There are fan artists who charge for their work and get the prices they ask. Why should writers be left out in a medium where there craft is just as necessary as that of the artist?

To put it bluntly, we will be doing precious little writing for free anymore. There are exceptions. We don't intend to make money writing for fanzines we admire and enjoy. It's a personal value judgement, one we expect some to disagree with, but, nevertheless, it is our judgement. You'll be seeing our work in this zine, in Alan Light's The Buyers' Guide, and in Richard Kyle's Graphic Story World, to name three.

Nor is this venture a closed shop. We are more than willing to agent the work of any writer or artist whose work we feel is of marketable quality. We are presently looking for a business manager to handle some of the paperwork involved. If you are interested in this venture in any capacity, drop us a line at 11203 Peony Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44111.

We'll also be producing several fanzines of our own. First on our list is True Fan Adventure Theatre, the fanzine that gives you exciting stories in the grand old pulp tradition (albeit tounge-in-cheeck). If you ever read one of Dwight Decker's original seven issues of this publication, you know you are in for a real treat.

Also in the works is Whizbang Wonder Comics. Not many fans can afford to buy old Golden Age comics. So, our incredibly benevolent and altruistic duo, along with fan writer Jeff Anderson and a whole slew of crackerjack fan artists, are producing a brand new Golden Age comic. Whizbang will attempt to duplicate a typical variety comic of thirty years ago with all kinds of synthetically creaky comic heroes. And a fraction of the price a real 40's comic would cost you.

This conludes the one and only installment of this column we will use to blow our own horns. We thank Paul Levitz for his indulgence. Next time, Tony solos as we continue the exciting adventures of Mort Weisinger on the doomed planet Krypton. We'll be looking for you!

REVIEWS

Adventure Into Fear 10 with Man-Thing: This proved rather interesting. The cover was very good -- a nice use of zip-a-tone. The cover was by Gray Morrow, unless I'm mistaken. The story represents some of Gerry Conway's best writing (mostly, because there isn't much dialogue). The art was Chaykin layouts and Morrow finials. The story was good, but not up to the one in Savage Tales. So far this doesn't even compare with Swamp Thing. The balance of the book was two stories -- one old new one (it's been in the drawer a while) and a reprint. "Spell Of The Sea Witch" by Allyn Brodsky was a typical pirate-ghost story (just desserts and all). The art by Jay Hawk was fairly good, and was inked by Black Bill Everrett. The reprint was a typical Atlas job. / Paul Hugli

Journey Into Mystery 1: Believe it or not, Marvel has finally given us a non-reprint mystery title by reviving the old J.I.M. Even though none of the stories in this issue were really great the book shows definate promise. The best was Thomas' adaptation of REHoward's "Dig Me No Grave", a very close adaptation. The illos by Kane/Palmer represented some of Kane's best work in a long while (along with Blackmark and Warlock). "House" by Englehart & Reese was a typical story out the old Atlas days, even down to Reese's style of art. I don't have much to say about Steve Skeates' third showing of "You Show Me Your Dreams...", except that it was pencilled by Jim Starlin and inked by Mike Ploog, both newcomers (with a lot of Ploog showing through). /P.Hugli

Duffy's Tavern

DUFFY VOHLAND, PROPRIETOR

Well, after being shut down for -- Ahem! -- "minor repairs" for over a year now, Duffy's Tavern is once again open for business. I hope for good; you, however, may not. That I hope to learn from the hundreds of LoCs you're going to flood me with. (Not-So-Subtle Hint!)

Having been in fandom for better than eight years now, I thought I might step back and examine the changes and, if any, progress in our group.

When I first came in contact with this thing called "fandom" (via an early issue of The Rocket's Blast-Comicollector), I was surprised simply by the fact that other comic collectors actually existed. Compared to today, the organization of fandom (if it could be called that then) was extremely crude and loose. Fanzines printed by photo-offset were exceptions, rather than the rule, as is now the case with all of our slick art zines and such. (Even most of the fan fanzines are offset.)

Generally speaking, we (fandom) have matured at an unbelieveable rate -- especially, I feel, over the past two years. No longer are we considered (by most of the pros) as a bunch of "Gosh-Wow" kids who should be ignored. Now, we have grown enough in number as well as in intelligence to cause many pros to open their ears and listen to what we say, and perhaps, to a degree, act on it.

Not only are we listened to more closely than before, but think of how much more intensely the companies are looking towards fandom for so much of its new talent. DC has even gone so far as to offer "apprenticeships" to members of fandom in order to turn their unpolished talents into pro material. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see Marvel try something like this, too. And, I think, they will benefit from this as much as we will.

As for what you could do to better comics and fandom even more: 1) Get more people to participate actively in fandom. If you know, write with, or, especially, are someone who has some artistic or writing ability -- contribute (or get the person in question to contribute). 2) Try to organize fandom in your own local area, if it isn't already. For example, in my own case, over the past year or so a group of Indiana/Illinois fans have gotten together under the collective name of "The Gang." Before we got together, I thought I was the only person in all of Indiana who collected comics -- I was obviously wrong. So, if you haven't already found a group in your area -- look around. I'm betting you'll find one. 3) Try to promote comics and fandom to the general public where you live. Go to your local medias and ask for coverage. It's not as hard to get as you might think. I went to a couple of TV stations about nine months ago asking to be on their respective local talk shows, and found them very responsive. So much so that I (and Steve Mattingly in one case) appeared within a week of going to each station. Denny O'Neil was also on one talk show here when he was in the area to lecture at the comics course at Indiana University.

I'm sure there are other things you could do, both individually and collectively, to better fandom and comics. I'd like to hear any more ideas that any of you have. But, even if you can't think of new ideas; do some of the aforementioned things. Help stamp out apathy in fandom!

All in all, I'd say that the state of things in fandom has improved to a remarkable degree over the past few years, and I hope it continues at this pace. But remember -- fans! (that's you guys out there) are what makes up fandom, so fandom can't grow and mature, even further, unless each of you does his or her part.

It seems kind of strange. I hadn't written a "DT" in over a year 'til yesterday (though many know that I've tried like hell) -- and now, this makes my second one in as many days. Oh well, a penny saved is a penny earned. (Huuunnnhhh???)

WRITE SOONEST!!!

Pax, Duffy Vohland, PO Box 70, Clarksburg, Indiana 47225.

Note to Overseas folk. Former TCR editor Derrill Rothermich is staioned near a post which stocks current comics better than many US outlets. Having trouble? Write him at: SP5 Derrill Rothermich, 492-48-8387, HHB, 10th ARTY Group, APO New York 09175, Ernest Ludwig Kaserne, Darmstadt, Germany.

SO WHAT ELSE is NEWS?

BY EMANUEL MARIS

NATIONAL LAMPOON - The Nov. issue will center on Decadence with the color comic strip illustrated by Frank Springer. Dec. brings an Easter issue which will be mostly a collection of stuff they couldn't use in previous issues. It also features a Son Of God strip, but I couldn't find out if the art is by Adams. Either Jan. or Feb. will feature the theme of Sexual Frustration.

THE MONSTER TIMES - No. 16: Mighty Joe Young Ish, includes Vincent Price interview, Brunner poster, info on TMT fan club, and reviews of Dr Phibes Rises Again and Return Of Count Yorga. No. 17: All Sci-Fi ish, including Forbidden Planet filmbook, Rod Serling interview, articles on Mysterians and The Green Slime, and an SF checklist.

LANCER - As everyone should know by now, Wolfshead and King Kull have been reissued with the same Frazetta and Krenkel art, respectively. Both are authored by REHoward. On the schedule for Sept.: The Sleeping Sorceress and The Dreaming City both Elric novels by Michael Moorcock, covers by Charles Moll. Re-issues are: Ensign Flandry by Poul Anderson and Dying Earth by Jack Vance. For Oct.: Strange Tomorrow, an anthology edited by Robert Hoskins which includes Sturgeon and Clement, and Infinity Four, another anthology. Reissues are Satan's World (Anderson) and Martian Odyssey (Stan Weinbaum) and Needle (Clement with a Freas cover). For Dec.: Witch Of The Dark Gate by John Jakes with a Frazetta cover and Mind Warpers (Eric Russell). For Jan.: Shaggy Planet by Ron Goulart (who writes for Marvel and has a Sept. 16 Arlington House hardback on the pulps - Cheap Thrills ($7.95)), and a Hinge cover. Also Bumsider by the late C.C. MacAbb. Reissued is Iceworld by Clement with a slightly edited version of Steranko's cover from the old edition.

PAPERBACK LIBRARY: The Avenger series continues monthly with: Sept: 4-Devil's Horns, Oct: 5-Frosted Death, Nov: 6-Blood Ring, Dec: 7-Stockholders In Death, and Jan: 8-Glass Mountain.

BANTAM - The Doc Savage books are now being released bi-monthly and the next two are No. 71-Murder Mirage (written by Norman Daniels, not Lester Dent) and No. 72-Metal Master. James Bama, who has done over 60 of the DS covers did his last one for 67-The Freckled Shark. Bantam tells me that he is a "Fine Artist" and no longer does illustrations for paperbacks. Fred Theiffer, a "Fine Illustrator" started doing the covers with No. 68-Quest Of The Spider and will continue indefinately. Als the first six Doc Savage paperbacks have been reissue at 75¢ each, so stop paying high dealers' prices! That includes The Man Of Bronze, The Thousand Headed Man, Meteor Menace, The Polar Treasure, Brand Of The Werewolf, and The Lost Oasis. Also slated for Nov. is Star Trek 8. You might note that ST, after 7 volumes, has a total of 3.5 million books in print (or an average of 500,000 copies per book) but Doc Savage, after 70 volumes, has only 11.5 million in print, an average of 160,000 per book. Also in Dec.: Night Gallery 2 and Asylum (William Johnston) which is tie-in to a movie of the same name starring Peter Cushing & Barbara Perkins. Also being reissued is Everything's Archie, the first Archie paperback to see print and supposedly the most popular.

ADDENDA - There will be an old radio show con held on Halloween weekend this fall in Hartford, Conn. More details next issue.

I'm looking for all types of news that is in any way related to the field of comics and science fiction like new book info, convention information, news about European publications in the field, obituaries of comic book or pulp writers and artists, etc. You will receive credit at the bottom of the column along with the other contributers. Send info to:

Emanuel Maris
316 W. 88 St.
NY, NY 10024

Send comments on the column direct to Paul; also publishers that you'd like to see covered; we will most certainly have Ace and Ballantine covered next time. I wish to thank Robert Hoskins (SF editor at Lancer), Dorothy Crouch (Paperback Library), Bantam's art and publicity dept.s, Larry Brill (TMT) and art director Michael Gross at NatLamp. So Long!

ET AL

Newsnotes on "The Gazette Extra" project that's in the works from the guys at Menomonee Falls: Prince Valiant will be a monthly, reprinting the strips in sequence (the first issue has the first 15 weeks), with a two-color cover, and a price tag of 60¢. It is due out about now. Jungle Jim will follow in a book of his own about two weeks later. A number of one-shots (Red Barry, The Phantom, X-9, et al) are under consideration. Speaking of the Gazette, Drift Marlo ends with No. 37. Garth will start in 38 (40 has the first Frank Bellamy art) and 50 features a week-long nude scene.

Mike Tiefenbacher sends word that Tharn (now running in Jungle Action) was originally entitled Lo-Zar The Mighty.

Fandom's famous "Gaff" (Carl Gafford) reports that he's turning over the editorial control of his fanzine, Minotour, to Joe Jenkins, Tony Isabella, and Cara Sherman, after some 4 years of editing. He'll continue contributing. Gaff cites fatigue as his reason for giving up, and the fact that he's heading out to LA for college.

Ah hah...I asked for the address of King Features last ish, and Jerry Beck came up with it: 235 E 45 St, NY, NY 10017.

A note from John Mansfield, newly elected chairman of Britian's major con. He's sends a report on this year's bash (which follows) and promises to keep us up to date on European happenings...

The 5th Annual British Comic Con was held over the weekend of August 8-9 at the Waverly Hotel in London. Just over 200 British and European fans attended, some coming from as far away as Italy, France, and West Germany. The con area itself suffered from smallness and a single small entrance-way added to the problems.

This years program leaned towards animation in films and several films and several films and speakers made up the bulk of the program. The American TV show The Jackson Five and next year's Osmond Brothers shows are made in England and the head of that studio explained the advances that had been made in the last few years. Another speaker turned out to be the animator for Monty Pythons flying circus and another demonstrated the results gotten from a new computer animator. All very interesting. The all night film show leaned towards such old standbys as Cabinet Of Dr Calgary, Judex, and some Star Trek episodes.

The dealers area was crowded and that is being polite. People who had not bought tables suddenly appeared and more tables were added to a basically over-crowded situation. The single entrance was cut in half when a dealer put his table there. The result was one major traffic jam that soon had fans meeting each other at close quarters. Items sold were mainly comics with some posters and foriegn material. Prices were a little cheaper than those prevailing in America and lots of British reprints were in view.

The whole con was put on by one person and suffered from his not being able to be in three places at once. The Con was crowded. However, a good rap session brought most of these points out and next year's committee is looking out for a good hotel. A difficult task, in a city where there is a deficency of hotels. --John Mansfield

ATTENTION: NEW YORK FANS!!
On Sunday, September 24 (Noon to 7 PM) The New York Flea Market (25th Street and 6th Avenue) will hold a comic book day, with tables available free to any dealer. Contact N. Mager at 11 Warren Street, NY 10007 (233-6010). Drop by.

Our own reviewer Paul Hugli sends word about his own zine, Fandom Media. Art by Hanley, Vohland, Gottfried, BJO, Adkins, Newton (centerspread), Kirby, Royer, Garrisson, Pinkowski, et al. Text by Mattingly, Vohland, Wilson. Contents include 10 pg sf strip, Kirby interview. 32 pages, offset. 75¢ from Paul Hugli at 9440 Nichols, Bellflower, Cal 90706.

A hearty welcome home to Steve Mitchell who has returned from Europe to rejoin the world of funny books.

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STERANKO HISTORY OF THE COMICS - VOLUME 2: What can you say about the history? It was all said about the first volume. So, I'll stick to the contents.

A beautiful full-color cover of some 30 heroes. Then three chapters on the Fawcett heroes. It is almost psyically amazing that the volume with the chapters on the Big Red Cheese was first made available to the public on the same day as NPP announced Shazam. All the Fawcett gang makes it: Mary Marvel, Capt Marvel Jr., Capt. Midnight, Bulletman, et al.

"The Warrior Skies Run Red." The reason was the adventures of the Blackhawks, chronicled in a chapter of their own. The following chapter takes care of the other flying heroes.

The [illegible] Man, a friend of Batman and Humor, is the next subject. [illegible] Doll Man, Uncle Sam, Black Condor, Ray, ey al. That is the way to take a roll call.

Then a Spirit history and critique. It includes a 7 page Spirit strip, a gem at any time.

Jim's storytelling style is nice and easy, and with the copy broken by many illustrations by the people involved, the result is a real pleasure.

If you don't plan on getting it, just stop reading this column. You'll never be satisfied by a mere fanzine.
$5.25 from Supergraphics, Box 445, Wyomissing, Penna. 19610.

TRY 'EM -- YOU'LL LIKE 'EM

Gazette Extra-Prince Valient: the first 15 weeks of Val by Foster in one b/w volume, only 60¢ from the folks at the Menomonee Falls Gazette. Address on pg16.

THE END

TCR

Hello there! First off, a big THANKS to those of you who answered my plea for mail (and close to 100 of you did). I'm glad you like TCR, and I'll try to mold it to your specifications. Therefore, this issue starts book/magazine news (with a tip of the typewriter to Manny Maris) and the Gold Key/Charlton saga is explained on page 3.

The nicest comment, to me, was that "e/t is just there...like the morning paper." I consider that my aim.

A lot of interesting things are being considered at this point, and subtle hints will be dropped until such time as I can unleash them. TCR 100, a special edition is one of these.

Hey, for those of you who want to know a bit more about who I am, Howe Seigel is doing a Fandom profile on me in RBCC 95.

Mailbag item: I don't use Marvel covers 'cause I can't get them. If I could, I would.

Next issue notes: Hopefully, the P2 Comic Art Awards Nominating Ballot and my usual news features. With all these new news columns, articles are being cut back a page or two. Out about October 14th.

It has been a long two weeks, what with Kirby and [illegible], I'm starting school Tuesday, and quite frankly, I don't feel like typing. So how about I just borrow a very old slogan and sign off:

WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING -- WRITE!!!

FOR SALE!!

FOR SALE: 25¢ each:(stocked in depth) Batman 244, 245. Cap 154. Defenders 2. Doc Savage 1. Fear 10. Forever People 11. Hero For Hire 3. Hulk 156. Korak 48. Marvel Spotlight 6. Mr Miracle 10. Swamp Thing 1. Tarzan 212. Warlock 2. Weird Worlds 2.
60¢: Tarzan Digest 1

Thru a weird deal I got stuck with a big batch of all of these, at cover price. If for any reason you missed one of them (or want more copies) please take some off my hands. Thanks, Paul.

back issue sale!!

Still available!!!!!

85 (May 1972): Undergrounds, Radar In The Void, Comic Economics, more.....25¢

86 (June 1972): 28 Page Convention Special Edition, The Wandering Fan, Comics History:Picto Fiction, True Confessions, Radar In The Void, cover by Kupperberg, more.....35¢

87 (July 1972): The Wandering Fan, Jach Spake, Undergrounds, cover by Kupperberg, more.....25¢

88 (August 1972): Fabulous Berni Wrightson/Shadow cover, Radar In The Void, The Angry Young Fan by Martin Pasko, more.....25¢

All issues have News, Coming Comics, and cover gallery. A limited quantity of 85 and 86 are available, 87 and 88 are well stocked.

Number 90 out on October 14th, 1972. Please renew promply now that I have to hassle schoolwork too. Peace!

18

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